

INTIMATIONS.

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CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, CHOCO-
LATE CREAMS, BURNT ALMONDS,
AND
SUNDRIES SWEETS,
ROSE WATER AND OTHER CRACKERS
IN GREAT VARIETY.
NEW SEASONS'.
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CAKES,
INCLUDING SOME
CHROMOS OF SWISS AND HOME
SCENERY,
SUITABLE FOR FRAMING:
ALBUMS.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 13th December, 1887.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
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TELEGRAPH No. 12.

BIRTHS.
At No. 63, Singapore Road, Singapore, on the morning of the 23rd December, 1887, the wife of CLAUDIO A. DA SILVA, of a son.
On the 3rd January, 1888, at East Point, the wife of JOHN BELL-LEWIS, of a son.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 4TH, 1887.

One of the most important topics of the day is that of commercial and technical education. For years past we have been told that the foreign workman was beating the English workman by reason of his superior training, and more recently the same sermon has been preached, and even more forcibly, with reference to commercial assistants and clerks. It has been embellished with a good deal of exaggeration, no doubt, the comparison being drawn in many cases between the best the foreigner can produce and the worst that can be found in England, for such is the fashion of the day. Still making all due allowances on this score, the alarmists have done good service in compelling attention to a very important subject. If England is to go on improving her commercial position the standard of business and technical education will have to be raised. This has been recognised in principle, and during the last few years technical schools have been established in many industrial centres, and increasing attention has at the same time been paid in the middle class schools of manufacturing and trading towns to subjects calculated to afford a useful training in the counting house and merchant's desk. The importance attached to the question was shown the other day, when a conference was held, under the auspices of the London Chamber of Commerce, on commercial education, at which there were many influential speakers. Simultaneously with the holding of this conference there was published a scheme for an examination for a commercial certificate drawn up by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board after consultation with Sir B. SAMUELSON, Sir H. ROSE, and Mr. MUNDELL, and with the Chamber of Commerce. It would hardly be too much to say that the launching of this scheme marks, on even in the history of education in Great Britain. Commercial education, hitherto relegated to such an inferior position, is now taken under the direct wing of the two great seats of learning, and it can hardly fail to benefit by the connection. As the *Times* remarks, "the real object of commercial education in the liberal sense is to show men the meaning of their daily work in its wider relations, and to give them a genuine interest in its scientific bearings. Such an education rightly given will not only make the recipient a better man and a better citizen, but a better man of business in the narrowest sense of the term. It will enlarge his views, widen his faculties, and give the zest of scientific pursuit to the everyday drudgery of the counting-house and the desk."

The examination is intended for candidates of 16 or 17 who are entering commercial life. A minimum of general knowledge is demanded of all candidates, and Arithmetic, Algebra, English, Geography, at least one modern language, and "another subject, literary or scientific," are compulsory, but a considerable latitude of choice is allowed within these limits. Thus shorthand is an optional subject, but commercial correspondences and general writing are obligatory, and general writing will be attached to good handwriting and spelling and to an orderly style." A choice is given between French, German, Spanish, and Italian, while the "literary or scientific subject" to be taken up may be either English History; Latin; Elementary Political Economy; Drawing; geometrical and mechanical; Chemistry, organic or inorganic; Mechanics; Electricity; or Sound, Light, and Heat. The examination in Latin and in modern languages comprises "unseen" translations, while in the living tongues "a fair power of conversing fluently" will be further required.

The Hongkong Public School last year very wisely placed itself under the University examination scheme. We would suggest that it should now prepare its boys for the commercial examination, since most of them are destined for a commercial career.

The examination is a tolerably stiff one, and should will have to make some progress, but it can hope to pass many pupils successfully, but the standard is one at which it might very usefully aim, even if it cannot attain to it immediately. Arrangements might possibly be made to have Chinese included as one of the optional subjects, which would be of decided utility locally. The time is approaching when there will be a large demand for young men with a knowledge of Asiatic languages, and more particularly of Chinese. A school for the study of Oriental languages has recently been founded at Berlin, and the Ecole des Lang-

ues Orientales Vives has for years past done good service in Paris. Efforts in the same direction have also been made in a fragmentary way in England, and a movement in favour of the centralisation of the facilities already afforded is now in progress. Commercial firms in China are beginning to appreciate the advantages of having on their staff young men with a knowledge of the colloquial, and the demand for such will go on increasing. Now, almost every boy brought up in Hongkong learns to speak Chinese after a fashion, the fashion, that is, of the coolie class. It ought to be part of the work of the Hongkong Public School to bring this knowledge, which the majority of its pupils possess, into shape, and turn the boys out able to speak the language after the manner of educated Chinamen. The school is in its infancy, the staff is small, and it would be unreasonable to look for great results at first. Very satisfactory progress has, however, been made, and the institution is a rising one. There is no room for carpentry at what has already been done, but it is not unreasonable to hope that much more will be done in the future, for the school will take a decidedly higher standing, and that in a few years' time it will be able to send up candidates qualified for the University commercial examination and proficient in the language of the people with whom as commercial men they will in after life have to maintain business relations.

M. Duxon's French Opera troupe, which was at the end of 1886, will be soon about to pay another visit to Hongkong. The troupe is expected to arrive about the 16th January, and will probably give their first performance on the following Saturday.

Last evening Mr. Sanger sang the soprano solo "Hear ye, Israel," with great sweetness and clearness. The wall calendar for 1888, issued by the Queen Insurance Company, and forwarded to us yesterday by the *Times*, shows a picture of the company's emblem, a bold and striking one. The emblem of the company appears in black and white on a plain red shield surmounted by a crown in such corner being coloured scenes in different quarters of the globe, three of them being laid in the British dominions. Why the publishers should have gone to Egypt for the fourth we are unable to discover.

A change in the date of departure of the French mail steamer in Shanghai is announced. The local papers state that the steamer will leave Shanghai in future during the northward season on Saturday at daylight, instead of Thursday afternoon as at present. The steamer, now in port, will be given time to leave the wireless system, and her mail will be sent accordingly on Friday the 6th of January. This will make no difference to Hongkong beyond adding to the pressure, which is already severe enough.

The steamer *Pokhara*, which left Singapore on December 2nd, is expected to arrive at 2 p.m. on the 21st, and the steamer, after lying at the port, returned to Singapore on the 23rd. The piston-rod and a part of the engine was broken, and although it had been put into commission by the people themselves, in October of that year, however, the present Nihon Teitoku Kaisha (Japan Railway Co.) obtained the permission of the Government to construct a line of over 400 miles length between Tokyo and Asomi, and in the same year was opened. The line has been extended to Saitama about 10 miles from Tokyo. To complete the line of 100 miles in the few years past, the work has not been parallel among the Government undertakings. The writer goes on to express his delight at being able to spend the whole day in a train. Hitherto, one has only been able to ride a short distance, but one can now be in the city from seven o'clock in the morning until half past seven at night, going to and from the line which has now opened a distance of 100 miles from Karuyama to Senda, a distance of 86 miles. The speed of the train on this line is only about 18 miles an hour at present. Along the road through the line passes, the writer noticed no heavy gradients, except one near Kusumi station, and there are only a few bridges. Between Fukushima and Matsukawa, there is a tunnel 600 feet long, which was the heaviest bit of work the company had to encounter.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

FROM SINGAPORE PAPEL.
LONDON, 21st December.

We (The Press) understand that Dr. Denby is to Collister at Kint, in Perak, for which he is doubtless well fitted from his knowledge of Malay and at least one Chinese dialect, and his experience and knowledge of the native character.

The Shen-pao publishes some strange customs and superstitions believed to prevail among the aborigines of Formosa, and which have greatly thwarted the efforts of H. E. Lee, the Commissioner of Civilizing these wild tribes. It is reported that half, or even more, of the aborigines were captured and made, and being questioned by General Lin as to the reason why they should remain with the Government, they replied that they were compelled to kill some people in order that their families might receive more comfort. It is also their custom that youths, who have attained the age of manhood, kill small birds before they can be a wife for the men persons they can kill, the better for their renown.

Complainant identified the defences by the shop belonging to her.

Defence denied the charge. The money found on the first defendant was the proceeds of a shop.

The case was remanded till this morning in order to allow of a witness for the defence being called.

LAURENT OF CLOTHING.

Loc Afn was convicted of larceny of eight pieces of clothing, value \$15, which had been entrusted to him to take to a seamstress, and was sentenced to five months' imprisonment with hard labour.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

2nd January.

The new year was ushered in with the discharge of a large quantity of fire-crackers, bombs, &c.

Yesterday being the Jubilee of His Holiness the Pope the crowd was observed with all pomp by the Cardinals, Prelates, and Bishops.

It is among the Parishes, the British Com

mon Times says—Amongst the outgoing passengers by the Parcels for Hongkong is Mr. William Denby, one of Portland's leading commission merchants and a large stockholder in the Oregon Milling Company. He is accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Ellen Denby.

The object of his visit is to investigate the trade with China. This lucrative trade has, heretofore, been almost entirely monop-

olized by San Francisco, but in the future

Oregon is bound to have a share. Mr. Denby will thoroughly investigate the matter, and see whether he can do better by establishing agencies in China, or by selling here.

By the Parcels, the Oregon is bound to have a share. Mr. Denby will thoroughly investigate the matter, and see whether he can do better by establishing agencies in China, or by selling here.

Government House, Post Office, Procurator

of the Corrido Maestros, the premises of Comendador Senna Fernandes, Comendador Brasto, Jr., Sra. Silva, Brando, Guedes, Dr. Alves, Neves & Sons, and others. All the Government Departments and private residences, in other streets also showed their respect to the Pope, especially the houses opposite the Cathedral, the residence of Sr. Freire, Sanches Simoes, the store of Sr. Ribeiro, and Sr. M. A. dos Reis. The Cathedral showed with good effect a large transparency of His Holiness.

The Ball in honour of H. E. Sr. Roca is to take place on the 8th, and not on the 7th as statu-

ed in error.

The corvette *Bartholomeo Diaz* will leave this

for your port for the purpose of coaling, on

Thursday, and will then proceed on her way home.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

3rd January.

A great crime was committed yesterday after-

noon in the residence of Dr. Roza, the Police

Surgeon, Praia Grande.

For what cause I

know not, but the cook struck a young girl, a

servant, with a chopper and mortally

wounded her. The woman who is a young

girl about twenty years of age, gave herself up to the Police after the commission of the crime.

SAIGON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

SAGOON, 2nd January.

Since the date of my last letter every Govern-

ment official has been living in a state of un-

certainty regarding his future position, and from

every month you hear nothing but this question:

"Will we still be the decree of the 11th October last be put in force?" This is the elaborated decree

mentioning forth the reduction of the Civil Service

as I mentioned in my last.

It is undeniable that the present state of things cannot last long without a reform, as all the Government offices are choke full with individuals who are paid, well paid, and extremely paid, for doing nothing but smoking a cigar and putting on the airs of grande Maitres. Unfortunately

the decree, the aims of which are good, will

principally affect honourable and faithful ser-

vants of the Republic, as men of ability and tried

colonial knowledge will be sacrificed, being in

their respective positions much junior to many

whose inability and want of knowledge are well

known. The Government would have done better

had it desrced the total prohibition of the influx

of the parasitic plants known as Malabars.

These are the real burden to the Colony, and

they are really of no nationality, as they will be

French subjects to-day, but as

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